

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /053 R

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-----140155Z 119453 /73

O P 132327Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO CINCLANT PRIORITY
USLOSACLANT PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109443

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJECT:NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM

REF: USNATO 3101, DTG 111737Z MAY 77

1. WE APPRECIATE MISSION'S EXCELLENT EFFORTS IN EXAMINING
MEANS FOR FOLLOW-UP IN NATO TO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM,
ONCE INITIATED BY MINISTERS.

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2. WE CAN SEE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE TO INFORMAL PRE-
LIMINARY DISCUSSIONS NOW BY MISSION WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS
AND WITH INTERNATIONAL STAFF ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE
PROBLEM OF DRAWING UP THE NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

3. IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS MISSION SHOULD MAKE THE POINT
THAT OUR PRIME OBJECTIVE IS TO GET CONCERTED NATIONAL

ACTION IN A FEW KEY FIELDS, WITH COROLLARY MOVEMENT IN RELATED NATO PROGRAMS (E.G., INFRASTRUCTURE, COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS, ETC.). THIS SHOULD MEAN GREATER NATIONAL ATTENTION TO NATO DEFENSE MATTERS, NOT MERELY MORE INTENSE NATO STAFF WORK.

4. BEGIN FYI: WE HOPE TO DEVELOP IMPROVED DEFENSE PROGRAMMING AND FOLLOW THROUGH MACHINERY FOR THE ALLIANCE

WHICH WOULD REVIEW AND UPDATE THE LONG TERM PROGRAM ANNUALLY. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NEED SUCCESSFUL INITIAL PROGRAM DEFINITION BEFORE STRESSING ANY SUCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES. END FYI.

5. OTHER POINTS REGARDING TOR INCLUDE:

A. THE PROGRAM MUST INVOLVE ALL NATO DEFENSE PLANNING AGENCIES AND COMMITTEES, SO THAT THEIR EFFORTS ARE COMPLEMENTARY RATHER THAN INDEPENDENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD SEE ATTENDANCE BY DIRECTOR, COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS ON STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS ESSENTIAL (PARA A OF TOR).

B. PURPOSE OF STEERING COMMITTEE (PARA B OF TOR) SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP A NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY RELATED CHANGES IN PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION (AS SHOWN IN PARA E OF TOR).

C. WHILE VIEWS OF NMA'S WILL BE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST CASES AND MUST BE TAKEN IN ACCOUNT IN ALL CASES, INTERESTS OF TIME WILL PROBABLY FREQUENTLY REQUIRE INFORMAL HANDLING OF PROBLEM OF SECURING MILITARY VIEWS. CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO AD-70 PROCEDURE, WHEREBY INITIAL MILITARY VIEWS WERE INTRODUCED INTO EWG BY NMA REPS, WITH FINAL MC REVIEW COMING WITH FINAL ACTION BY EWG, I.E., WHEN EWG REPORT WAS READY FOR DPC.

D. WE WOULD SUGGEST CHANGING FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA C OF DRAFT TOR TO READ AS FOLLOWS AND DELETE SECOND SENTENCE: QTE THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES (NMAS) OR IN SOME CASES CIVILIAN-MILITARY BODIES SUCH AS CNAD REPS FOR STANDARDIZATION OR AD HOC WORKING GROUPS (E.G., LOGISTICS AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE) WILL HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO CORRECT ABOUT 8-10 OF THE ALLIANCE'S MOST CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES. UNQTE.

E. WE SUGGEST DROPPING THE WORDS QTE TO HELP DESIGN THE

PROGRAM UNQTE IN PARA E OF TOR.

6. WE COULD ACCEPT A STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF
EITHER DEPUTY PERMREPS OR DEFENSE ADVISORS. OF COURSE,
IF FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE, DEPUTY PERMREPS WOULD BE
PREFERABLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, MILITARY PLANS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE109443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RKOMER:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-0141
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770559/aaaabyvi.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: de98a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2526015
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de98a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009